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REVIEWS.

A DICTIONARY OF LAW. Comprising a dictionary and compendium of American and English jurisprudence. By William C. Anderson, of the Pennsylvania Bar. T. H. Flood & Company. Chicago, 1889. 8vo. pp. 1132.

The distinguishing feature of this dictionary is the material out of which it is constructed; judicial definitions and interpretations make up the body of the work. The dictionary itself is divided by different-sized type into definitions and commentary. "The endeavor has been to find definitions framed by the courts, the highest tribunals of the country receiving the preference. Some by text-writers are also given." "The commentary portion of the work consists of matters pertaining, it is believed, to every recognized branch of the law, and sets forth the reasoning of the law itself." "In the selection of cases preference is given upon all subjects to the decisions of the Supreme Court and circuit courts of the United States, and, next, to those of the highest courts of the States."

The merits and demerits of the plan of the work are apparent. Scholarly treatment can hardly be expected. Moreover, it is by no means clear that the sources which the compiler has preferred are the best for the purpose of true definition and discriminating application. Again, eleven hundred pages are hardly sufficient for an extensive commentary on the whole law. But, on the other hand, the dictionary exposes the law as it is applied every day in the highest courts of this country, and thus becomes distinctly American. It is practical and thoroughly useful, it seems, to the student and to the American lawyer.

It is impossible to tell as yet how well Mr. Anderson has performed the task he has set for himself. It seems to the writer, however, that notwithstanding the labor involved the work has been done extremely well.

L. F. H.

THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF POLICE OFFICERS AND CORONERS. By R. H. Vickers. Chicago: T. H. Flood & Co., 1889. 16mo. pp. 275.

The primary object of this book is to put, in language comprehensible to the general public, the broad principles of the law of police officers and coroners. The author, however, wishes to raise a strong public sentiment against the system by which the police of Chicago are controlled, which, he claims, enables the ward bosses to paralyze all efforts to bring certain classes of criminals to justice. This gives the book a strong local flavor.

A. C. T.